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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

REPORT ON THE JUDICIARY

1986

Letter of Transmittal
1986 Annual Report

Chief Justice Fay

This is the twelfth annual report on the judiciary which has been submitted to the General Assembly, and it is my first opportunity to address you in this manner since my swearing in as Chief Justice on July 29, 1986.

First I want to acknowledge the role of my predecessor, former Chief Justice Joseph A. Bevilacqua, in the many programs described in this report. One example is the development of bail guidelines. These were drafted by a committee named by Justice Bevilacqua to address disparity in bail practices. The rules of evidence are another example. These were also drafted by a committee appointed by the former Chief Justice, and when adopted they will provide a uniform set of rules for all courts. Justice Bevilacqua must also be credited for the many projects underway to improve court facilities. These include the second phase of renovations to the Providence County Courthouse, construction of a new judicial complex in South County, major renovations to the Newport County Courthouse and improvements to the Kent County Courthouse. The former Chief Justice provided strong leadership to the courts, and many of the programs mentioned in this report demonstrate what he was able to accomplish.

When I became Chief Justice my priorities for the courts included increasing the public's understanding of the justice system, improving programs to assist victims and, most important, eliminating delays. Shortly after taking office I also solicited the opinions of judges, court administrators and attorneys as to what the priorities of the Chief Justice should be. Their responses supported my goals and highlighted additional areas to be addressed.

As a result, plans are underway to set up several task forces. One will examine future roles for the courts. A second will study the way the entire system deals with domestic violence. I am also planning several initiatives to address delay, including the naming of a task force to establish time standards for the processing and disposition of cases in all courts.

In conclusion, I am aware that there are tremendous challenges facing the justice system, and I view these as an opportunity to make the Rhode Island judiciary a model for the nation. Obviously, I cannot do this alone. However, with a firm commitment by all staff members within the courts and with cooperation between the Judicial, Legislative and the Executive branches of government, I know we can succeed in making ours an excellent system.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Fay

Thomas F. Fay
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

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This report covers calendar year 1986

Pursuant to Chapter 8-15 of the Rhode Island General Laws as amended by Chapter 247 of the 1975 Public Laws, this report was prepared by the:

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

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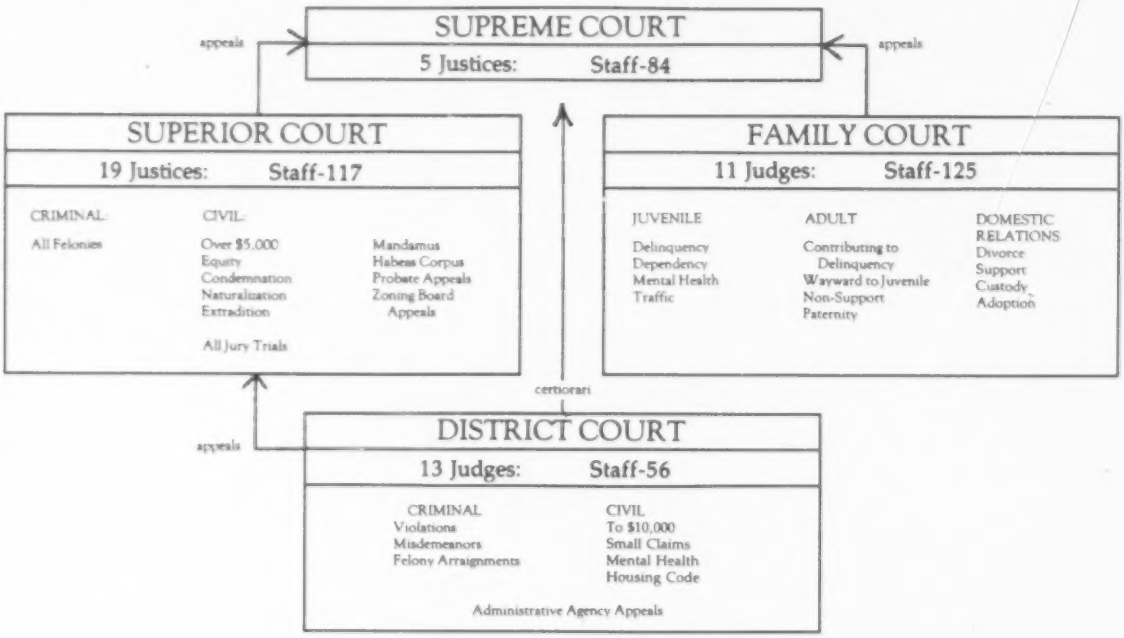
RHODE ISLAND
COURT STRUCTURE

Rhode Island has a unified court system composed of four statewide courts: the District and Family Courts are trial courts of special jurisdiction, the Superior Court is the general trial court, and the Supreme Court is the court of review.

The entire system in Rhode Island is state-funded with the exception of Probate Courts, which are the responsibility of cities and towns; and the Municipal Courts, which are local courts of limited jurisdiction. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the executive head of the state court system and has authority over the judicial budget. The Chief Justice appoints a state court administrator and an administrative staff to handle budgetary and general administrative functions. Each court has responsibility over its own operations and has a chief judge who appoints an administrator to handle internal court management.



Staffing and jurisdictional organization of the Rhode Island Courts.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court has final advisory and appellate jurisdiction on questions of law and equity, and it also has supervisory powers over the other state courts. In addition, the Supreme Court has general advisory responsibility to both the Legislative and Executive branches of the state government concerning the constitutionality of legislation. Another responsibility of the Supreme Court is the regulation of admission to the Bar and the discipline of its members.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court also serves as the executive head of the state court system. The Chief Justice appoints the State Court Administrator and the staff of the Administrative Office of the State Courts. This office performs

personnel, fiscal, and purchasing functions for the state court system. In addition, the Administrative Office serves a wide range of management functions, including the development and operation of automated information systems for all courts; long-range planning; the collection, analysis, and reporting of information on court caseloads and operations; the development and implementation of management improvement projects in specified areas; and the supervision of facilities.

The State Law Library is also under the direction of the Supreme Court. The library's primary function is to provide reference materials and research services for the judges and staff of the courts. However, it also serves the general community as the only comprehensive law library in the state.

SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. Civil matters concerning claims in excess of $5,000 and all equity proceedings are heard in this court. The Superior Court also has original jurisdiction over all crimes and offenses except as otherwise provided by law, and thus all indictments by grand juries and informations charged by the Department of Attorney General are returned there. The Superior Court has appellate jurisdiction from decisions of local probate and municipal courts. Also, except as specifically provided by statute, criminal and civil cases tried in the District Court are brought to the Superior Court on appeal for a trial de novo. In addition, there are numerous appeals and statutory proceedings, such as redevelopment, land condemnation cases, zoning appeals, and enforcement of arbitrators' awards, which are under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court. The Superior Court also has concurrent jurisdiction with the Supreme Court over writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, and certain other prerogative writs. Appeals from the Superior Court are heard by the Supreme Court.

Map of the State of Rhode Island showing the Superior and Family Courts

FAMILY COURT

The Family Court was created to focus special attention on individual and social problems concerning families and children. Consequently, its goals are to assist, protect, and if possible, restore families whose unity or well-being is being threatened. This court is also charged with assuring that children within its jurisdiction receive the care, guidance, and control conducive to their welfare and the best interests of the state. Additionally, if children are removed from the control of their parents, the court seeks to secure for them care equivalent to that which their parents should have given them.

Reflecting these specific goals, the Family Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine all petitions for divorce and any motions in conjunction with divorce proceedings, such as motions relating to the distribution of property, alimony, support, and the custody of children. It

also hears petitions for separate maintenance, and complaints regarding support for parents and children. The Family Court also has jurisdiction over those matters relating to delinquent, wayward, dependent, neglected, abused or mentally defective or mentally disordered children. It also has jurisdiction over adoptions, child marriages, paternity proceedings, and a number of other matters involving domestic relations and juveniles.

Appeals from decisions of the Family Court are taken directly to the state Supreme Court.

DISTRICT COURT

Most people who come before courts in this state have contact initially with the District Court. Thus, the District Court has been divided into eight divisions to give the people of the state easy geographic access to the court system.

The jurisdiction of the District Court includes small claims that can be brought without a lawyer for amounts under $1,000 and actions at law concerning claims of no more than $5,000. In 1981 legislation also gave the District Court concurrent jurisdiction with the Superior Court for actions at law between $5,000 and $10,000 with transfer to the Superior Court available upon demand of either party. This court also has jurisdiction over violations of municipal ordinances or regulations.

The District Court also has original jurisdiction over all misdemeanors where the right to a jury trial in the first instance has been waived. If a defendant invokes the right to a jury trial, the case is transferred to the Superior Court.

Unlike many limited jurisdiction courts, the Rhode Island District Court does not handle traffic violations, except for a very few of the most serious offenses.

Appeals from District Court decisions in both civil and criminal cases go to the Superior Court for trial de novo. In actual practice, this right to a new trial is seldom

Map of the State of Rhode Island Showing the Divisions of the District Court

used, and District Court dispositions are final in 96.7% of all criminal cases and 98.5% of all civil cases. An additional category of minor offense, called violations, was created by the Legislature in 1976. Decisions of the District Court on violation cases are final and subject to review only on writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court.

Since October 1976, the District Court has had jurisdiction over hearings on involuntary hospitalization under the mental health, drug abuse, and alcoholism laws. The District Court also has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the adjudicatory decisions of the state tax administrator and several regulatory agencies and boards. The court also has the power to order compliance with the subpoenas and rulings of the same agencies and boards. In 1977, this court's jurisdiction was again increased to include violations of state and local housing codes. District Court decisions in all these matters are only subject to review by the Supreme Court.

1986 IN THE RHODE ISLAND COURTS

JUDICIAL BUDGET COMPARISON

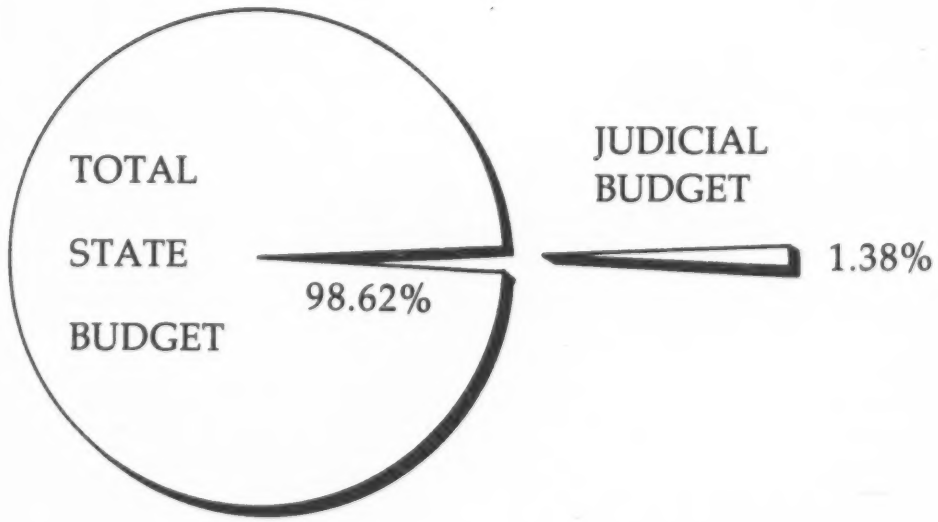
The chart below compares the judicial budget for F.Y.'s 1982 to 1987. During the period ending F.Y. 1986, actual state spending increased 26% from Fiscal Year 1982 compared to 22% for the judiciary.

Although, the state's commitment to the judiciary has been fairly static since 1984, it still remains below the share received in 1981 (1.45%) and 1982 (1.42%)

	FY82	FY83	FY84	FY85	FY86	FY87*
STATE BUDGET	1,134,540,620	1,170,913,932	1,241,831,167	1,341,554,517	1,435,174,551	1,560,126,551
Increase	67,445,870	36,373,312	70,917,235	99,723,350	93,620,034	124,952,000
JUDICIAL BUDGET	16,165,979	15,833,435	17,041,254	18,773,562	19,787,183	21,583,831
Increase	643,002	(332,544)	1,207,819	1,732,308	1,013,621	1,796,648
JUDICIAL SHARE	1.42%	1.35%	1.37%	1.39%	1.38%	1.38%

*F.Y. 87 figures represent budget program — previous years are actual expenditures

JUDICIAL SHARE OF THE BUDGET



SUPREME COURT

THOMAS F. FAY ELECTED AS CHIEF JUSTICE

Governor DiPrete administers oath to Rhode Island's 21st Chief Justice since the 1842 Constitution.

On July 29, 1986, Thomas F. Fay was sworn in as the 55th Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. The Chief Justice graduated from Providence College in 1962 and from Boston University Law School in 1965. He was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar in 1966 and was elected to the House of Representatives from Central Falls in 1968 where he served until 1978. His ten year tenure in the General Assembly culminated in the chairmanship of the House Judiciary Committee in 1977 and 1978. In 1978 he was appointed a Family Court judge, and he served on the Family Court bench for eight years before being elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

At his inaugural address Chief Justice Fay outlined his priorities for the Rhode Island Judiciary. He announced that his top priority would be to develop a new openness throughout the judicial system. He indicated that he believes the system belongs to the people of the State of Rhode Island and they should have access to information that allows them to evaluate its performance. In this regard the new Chief Justice stated that he favors continuing the use of television cameras in the courtroom and having a free flow of information between the courts and the media. He further stated that judges and other court personnel should be available to meet with concerned community groups for open and frank discussion and an exchange of ideas regarding the judicial process in Rhode Island.

In connection with this new openness in the court system, Chief Justice Fay expressed a commitment to improving the treatment victims and their families receive from the courts. He stressed that the justice system must make every effort to assist those who have been victimized by crime.

Another major concern the Chief Justice discussed in his initial address was delay in case processing. He stated that he intends to evaluate the present situation and develop and implement appropriate and practical strategies to eliminate delay. He noted that the possible expansion of the present judicial information system as well as the use of mediation and special masters to settle certain legal disputes would be possible avenues to pursue in accomplishing this goal.

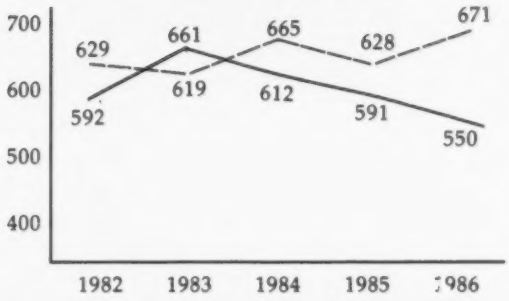
Chief Justice Fay continually stressed that under his direction the judiciary will make every effort to be more responsive to the citizens of Rhode Island.

SUPREME COURT DISPOSES OF A RECORD NUMBER OF CASES IN 1986

The results for the 1986 court term have shown continued improvement in the processing of the court's workload. For the third year in a row the court disposed of more appeals than were docketed. Moreover this year dispositions exceeded filings by 121 cases, an all-time record.

By disposing of more cases than were filed for three successive terms, the court has reduced the pending caseload by 243 cases or 33%. Three years ago the court began the term with 730 cases pending, the highest number in its history. At the end of this term the number pending was down to 487, which is the first time in ten years that the caseload has dropped below 500.

CASES DOCKETED VS. CASES DISPOSED
1986 Court Term
— Docketed ——Disposed



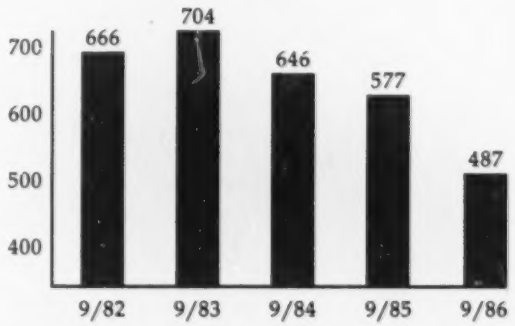
Thus, the court's major achievement this term has been a record number of dispositions. The total for the year was 671, which exceeded the court's previous high of 665 in 1984. The key to the high disposition rate in these two terms has been the cases disposed after argument on the motion calendar. While the other two categories of dispositions, opinions and disposition before argument on the motion calendar, have remained fairly static, dispositions on the motion calendar have risen dramatically. The cases disposed by a full written opinion have consistently ranged from 170 to 190 cases per term, and dispositions before argument on the motion calendar have ranged from 285 to 305. However, cases disposed on the motion calendar totalled 188 this past term, which was 40% more than in 1985. This demonstrates the continued importance of the motion calendar in the disposition of cases.

One other area which contributed to the increase in dispositions this term has been the careful screening of petitions for certiorari. Two years ago there were 62 petitions denied after initial review, last year there were 90, and this term the number has increased to 116. With more filings in this category, the screening process for petitions will also continue to play a major role in the disposition of cases.

Despite the positive results, one problem that has developed has been a drop in the disposition of adult criminal cases. There were 58 criminal appeals disposed this term, whereas the total for 1984 was 94. At the same time that dispositions have decreased, adult criminal filings have increased, and as a result the number of pending cases in this category has risen in the past two years from 60 to 97. The court is aware of the problem and is considering ways to speed up the disposition of some criminal appeals.

Besides record dispositions, the other factor which contributed to the court's success this term was that new appeals dropped to their lowest level since 1979. There were 550 cases docketed for the court year, which was 40 cases less than in 1985 and 107 cases less than in 1983. Compared to 1985 there were decreases in both civil filings and petitions for writ of certiorari fell by 21. On the other hand, adult criminal appeals increased by 20.

CHANGE IN PENDING CASELOAD
ALL CASES



As mentioned above, the court will begin the new term with the lowest inventory of cases since 1976. The most significant reduction has been in the number of pending civil cases. At the end of the 1983 term total civil appeals

reached a high of 531, and at the end of this term the number was down to 266, which is a decrease of 50% in three years. Also compared to last term there has been a reduction in the number of certiorari cases pending. A year ago cases in this category totalled 121, and at the end of the term the number dropped to 103.

GENDER BIAS COMMITTEE SURVEYS KEY COURT PARTICIPANTS

The Committee on Women in the Courts was appointed in late 1984 by then Chief Justice Joseph A. Bevilacqua to examine the extent to which gender bias exists in the state courts and to formulate solutions to the problem.

The Committee's study of gender bias has focused on the following areas:

1. Biased behavior toward women in the courtroom environment.
2. Gender bias in the employment and promotion of women employees.
3. Gender bias in judicial decision making, particularly in sentencing practices and in personal injury and wrongful death awards.
4. Gender bias in certain areas of family law, such as the treatment of victims of domestic abuse, the award and enforcement of support orders, the division of property and awarding of alimony in divorce, custody issues and the treatment of juveniles charged with waywardness or delinquency.

The Committee's study of the problem of gender bias has been in two stages. During the first phase the Committee collected objective data on the frequency and types of gender bias which occur. Some of this information was collected by trained volunteers who sat in on court hearings and trials and recorded specific types of behavior which either imply that women are inferior in status or portray women in a stereotypical role. Other information was collected by a review of case decisions. The purpose for reviewing case records was to examine whether court decisions vary systematically with the sex of the parties, the attorneys or the judge.

This phase was completed in 1985, and during 1986 the work of the Committee focused on a survey of key court participants including judges, jurors, attorneys and court personnel. The survey asked questions relevant to each group about their perceptions and experiences of gender bias in the courts.

The Committee received a grant from the Rhode Island Bar Foundation for part of this phase, which made it possible to send questionnaires to all of the members of the State Bar and to send a reminder 14 days later requesting return of the questionnaire.

The surveys were distributed between May and July, and the response from every group was impressive. The Committee received over 1,000 responses. Of this total, 710 responses were received from attorneys, 25 were received from judges, 155 from employees, and 185 from jurors. The large number of responses has provided the Committee with a highly reliable sample on which to base its findings.

Judge Corinne P. Grande chairs a study committee on gender bias in the courts.

By the end of 1986, the Committee had completed compiling and analyzing the survey results, and it will submit a final report to the Chief Justice by the spring of 1987.

Rhode Island is the third state to initiate a study of gender bias in the courts, and the work the Committee has done has contributed greatly to research which is going on throughout the country on this issue.

STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS BAIL GUIDELINES

In February, 1985, the Chief Justice expanded the role of the Sentencing Study Committee to include an examination of bailsetting practices. This was done in response to a report issued by the Governor's Task Force on Overcrowding, which charged that disparity in bail practices was contributing to the overcrowding problem in the Awaiting Trial Section of the Adult Correctional Institution, particularly with defendants charged with misdemeanors.

After eighteen months of data collection, the Committee presented an interim report with the following findings and recommendations. The Committee determined that there is very little information provided to judges at the bailsetting stage, especially in District Court. To address this the Committee recommended establishing a Bail Information Unit, which would provide information to the judges on defendants' prior records and on their ties to the community. The Committee suggested that the Supreme Court try to seek private funding for this project to get it started as soon as possible.

Based on this recommendation, the Supreme Court applied for and received a $68,570 grant from the Rhode Island Bar Foundation through its Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grant program. The grant provided one year of funding to the Court to set up a Bail Information Unit as a pilot program. The funds will be used to hire two interviewers and a secretary. In addition, the Supreme Court will employ a coordinator for the Bail Unit Project.

The Committee also recommended in its interim report that a rotating system for bail commissioners be established, and it proposed that the system be modeled after the successful program already in use by the Warwick Police Department. This recommendation was prompted by the finding that the present commissioner system allows for the possibility of "commissioner shopping" and the exercise of undue influence on bail decisions by the police.

Following the submission of the report the Committee's one remaining objective was to develop bail guidelines. A subcommittee was appointed to draft proposed guidelines with Superior Court Associate Justice Albert E. DeRobbio as Chair. After agreeing on an initial draft, the Committee held two meetings to which judges and the public were invited to comment on the proposed guidelines. The Committee then made final revisions to the proposal and submitted the guidelines to the Chief Justice with the recommendation that they be adopted as a rule of court.

SVENGALIS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF LAW LIBRARIANS OF NEW ENGLAND

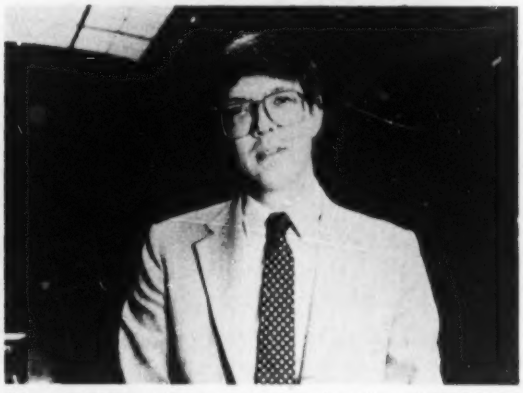
State Law Librarian Kendall F. Svengalis was elected President of the 350 member Law Librarians of New England at the organization's annual meeting held at the Harvard Law School on May 9, 1986. Prior to his election, Svengalis had been active in the organization for ten years, serving terms as Treasurer and Vice-President. Originally organized in 1946, the Law Librarians of New England now draw membership from over

100 academic, governmental, corporate, and law firm libraries in the New England region. The organization's chief aims are the enhancement of law library services and the continuing professional education of law librarians.

Svengalis was also elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors of the State Court and County Law Library Section at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries held in Washington, D.C. in July, 1986. The membership of SCCLL includes law librarians from governmental law libraries throughout the United States.

Svengalis has written extensively on the subject of cost-effective acquisitions in law libraries and has advised law libraries across the country on methods of reducing the high cost of legal materials. His criticisms of the law book publishing industry have helped create a new era of consumer awareness among law librarians and have caused a number of legal publishers to seek an accommodation with the law library community on such matters as pricing and supplementation practices.

LAW LIBRARY BROADENS SCOPE OF ITS LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES



The State Law Library under the direction of Kendall F. Svengalis increases services.

During 1986 the State Law Library took significant steps to broaden the scope of its legal reference services to both the legal community and the citizens of the State of Rhode Island. Of particular note, the library collection topped the 100,000 volume mark for the first time in its history. Nearly 2,600 new volumes were acquired in 1986 including those in both hardcopy and microformats. Important additions to the collection included treatises in such areas as constitutional, criminal, labor, products liability, social security and immigration law, as well as a variety of legal materials aimed at the non-lawyer population.

The library also addressed what has become a significant theft problem with the addition of a 3-M electronic theft detection system. It is expected that this equipment will sharply reduce the level of thefts from the law library and, thus, improve the overall quality of library services.

In addition to its existing reference services, the library also provides a number of special services to the Rhode Island legal community. Assistant Librarian Sondra Giles prepares regular lists of new publications for insertion in the *Rhode Island Bar Journal.* Marcia Lakomski, librarian at the Garrahy Complex Library, has prepared a list of the law-related loose-leaf services available in Rhode Island libraries and a list of the legal periodicals in Rhode Island libraries. In addition to their legal research value, these publications are part of an effort to avoid the unnecessary duplication of legal research materials in the state and to encourage cooperative collection development among Rhode Island libraries. The library staff also continues to compile, bind, and index the written decisions of the Superior, Family and District Courts, and serves as a repository for the slip opinions of the U.S. District Court.

The State Law Library also took another important step in 1986 when it was invited to join the New England Law Library Consortium, an organization

consisting of fourteen academic law libraries and the Social Law Library in Boston. Consortium membership provides the court system with access to the legal collections of the member libraries through interlibrary loans, shared acquisitions, communication networks, collection deposit programs, and union lists. Future Consortium projects include application for grants to finance a Consortium-wide Telefax network to provide immediate interlibrary loan services.

At the close of 1986, the State Law Library had proposed budget requests to fund the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Legal Reference and Research Needs. These included funds to support the introduction of the Westlaw computerized legal research system, two additional support staff, evening hours in Providence, and the upgrading of several branch library collections.

CHIEF JUSTICE FAY SETS PRIORITIES FOR THE JUDICIARY

One of Chief Justice Fay's first initiatives following his election to office was to call on the expertise of judges, top administrators and a group of about 150 attorneys to assist him in assessing the most serious problems confronting the judiciary and how they should be addressed.

To get this information a questionnaire was distributed to all three groups. The Chief Justice then held informal meetings with all of the judges of the trial courts to discuss the questionnaire results.

The questionnaire responses showed consensus in many areas. For example, there was unanimous agreement that court delay is a major concern. Among attorneys this issue ranked second and among judges it ranked third as an area which should receive the highest priority of the Chief Justice. Also 94% of the attorneys and 86% of the judges responded that there should be a special program to eliminate the backlog.

The establishment of time standards and adoption of a speedy trial rule received the most support as programs which would have an effect on delay.

There was also consensus that there should be a public information program in the courts. The majority of judges and administrators (77%) indicated that the Chief Justice should not be the single spokesperson for the judiciary but that the courts should have a public information officer (87% favored this approach), and an organized speakers program (91% favored such a program).

While the questionnaire results showed agreement in these and other areas, there were also points of disagreement. For example, judges and administrators differed with attorneys on whether the present structure of the courts allows the system to operate effectively. 72% of the judges and administrators responded that the present structure does allow the system to operate effectively, while 62% of the attorneys responded that it does not.

The questionnaire results identified systemwide problems and needs and formed the basis for developing a plan of action for the courts. The first plan is a general statement of what the judiciary will try to accomplish in 1987. It was presented to the Advisory Board, whose members include the justices of the Supreme Court and the chief judges of the trial courts, and the Board gave it unanimous approval.

NEW RULES OF EVIDENCE TO BE ADOPTED

Since early 1981, the Special Committee to Develop Uniform Rules of Evidence has been working to formulate rules of evidence which would apply to

proceedings in all state courts. A tentative draft of the proposed Rules of Evidence was completed in January, 1985, and the Committee invited comments from members of the Bar. The comments and suggestions which were received were then considered by the Committee, and a final draft of the rules was prepared.

The proposed Rhode Island Rules of Evidence have been submitted to the Supreme Court. The Rules of Evidence are awaiting approval and adoption by the Court.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

REORGANIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE ACCOMPLISHED

One of Chief Justice Thomas F. Fay's priorities, following his appointment, was to reorganize the Administrative Office of the State Courts in order to improve the court's administrative effectiveness in the years to come. The Administrative Office of the State Courts has been in existence since 1969, and though the office's responsibilities have greatly increased over seventeen (17) years, the structure has not undergone appropriate changes to meet the new demands, that have been placed on it.

The principal characteristic of the reorganization plan is the division of most Administrative Office operations into four distinct areas. These areas are Policy and Programs, Human and Financial Resources, Facilities and Operations, and Information Systems. Responsibility for each of these areas will be given to an Assistant Administrator. These are new positions, and the purpose for establishing these new middle level positions is to define responsibilities clearly for each area and give more direct supervision to the forty administrative office employees. The new structure should also provide an improved working relationship with the legislature and the opportunity to implement a broader public education program.

The reorganization will take place in three phases to reduce the cost and to allow for adequate training of the new personnel. In Phase I the three new Assistant Administrators were named. They are Ms. Susan McCalmont, Policy and Programs; Mr. William Melone, Human and Financial Resources; and Mr. Robert Johnson, Facilities and Operations. Mr. Edward J. Plunkett, Jr. will continue as the Executive Director of Information Services.

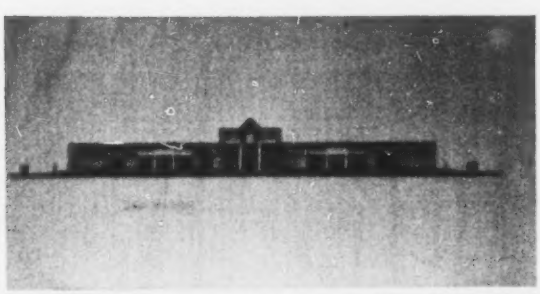
Reorganization promotes three to new Assistant Administrator positions.

In the remaining two phases several new positions will be created, including a Legal Counsel position to assist in labor negotiations, the development of contracts, the drafting of legislation and other administrative law areas. A Public Information Officer position will also be created to provide a regular channel for disseminating information about the courts to the press and the public. The reorganization should be completed by mid 1987.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COURT FACILITIES CONTINUE

Extensive rehabilitation of the Providence County Courthouse was begun in 1985, and the first phase was completed in 1986. This phase concentrated on replacement of the slate roof, roof drains, and all of the windows in the building.

The second phase was scheduled to begin in 1986 but has been delayed for approximately six months. The plan now is to start phase two in the Spring of 1987. During this stage of the renovations the present heating system will be removed, and a modern system will be installed which will provide heating, ventilation and air conditioning all in one system. It is estimated that this work will take at least six months to complete.



Groundbreaking for Washington County Courthouse will take place in 1987.

Also during 1986 planning continued for the new Washington County Courthouse. The new structure will be located on state property at the South County Government Center. Construction was expected to begin in the Fall of 1986 but has been delayed due to estimated cost increases. This has necessitated redesigning the facility to stay within the budget. The new courthouse will be a single level structure and will house the Superior, Family, and District Courts for Washington County. The building will provide approximately 40,000 square feet of space and will include four courtrooms, judges' chambers, conference rooms, and a prisoners' cellblock and holding area. Also included are child care facilities, a grand/petit jury facility and a law library. The Department of Attorney General, the Public Defender, the Probation Department and the Sheriffs' Department will also have offices in the building.

Another project initiated in 1986 has been a proposal to completely restore the Newport County Courthouse. The renovations will include a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system for the building, all new windows and other improvements to the interior. An addition to the building is also planned. The addition will add a new floor, which will house a courtroom, a judges chamber, a library, a stenographer's office, conference rooms and other court related offices.

NEW DIRECTOR NAMED FOR THE COURTS' COMPUTER SERVICES

Edward J. Plunkett, Jr. rejoined the Rhode Island Judicial Systems and Sciences (RIJSS) Office as Executive Director in February, 1986. Previously Mr. Plunkett had been a senior programmer with RIJSS before leaving to take a position in private industry. Under the direction of Mr. Plunkett, RIJSS has been enhancing the existing automated systems and expanding the capabilities of the system with new equipment.

Mr. Plunkett has reorganized the technical staff to provide a team approach to solving problems, and two new programmers have been hired. In addition, two evening system operators have been hired to improve system back-up proce-

dures and to allow users to have maximum access to the system during working hours.

During 1986, the RIJSS staff expanded the Civil Information System to provide statewide support to Superior Court counties. Enhancements were also included to capture additional information and verify the integrity of data in the system. Another project completed in 1986 was the development of a statistical report for Superior Court administrators and the Administrative Office of the State Courts. This report provides comprehensive information on criminal case activity in the trial court. The RIJSS staff also designed a statistical report package tailored to the needs of the committee studying the treatment of women in the courts.

RIJSS also developed a registry accounting system for Superior and District Court which automated the record keeping for the collection and disbursement of all fines and costs assessed by the court as well as remittances to the parties involved.

RIJSS staff and its new director are headquarted at the Garrahy Judicial Complex.

A number of areas in the Supreme Court also benefitted from the development and expansion of the automated system. For example, during 1986 installation of an automated tracking system for the Central Registry was completed. The Central Registry is responsible for collecting restitution from criminal defendants and disbursing the money to crime victims. A system was also implemented to assist the Office of the Attorney Disciplinary Counsel. This Counsel is responsible for handling complaints of misconduct by attorneys. The new system tracks complaints from filing to disposition and assists the office with its daily operation. In addition, the Supreme Court Appellate Statistical Report was modified to provide more accurate and useful data from the system.

Another major development in 1986 was the installation of WANG Systems Networking, a communications device providing a direct computer to computer link between the Licht Judicial Complex, the Garrahy Judicial Complex, and the Department of Attorney General. This has resulted in the centralization of system data, thus providing greater control over any equipment and program problems that may arise.

COURT EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDES IN-STATE AND OUT-OF-STATE SEMINARS

During 1986 the Court Education Program continued to provide funds for new judges to attend national judicial education programs offered by the National Judicial College and the National College of Juvenile and Family Law. Some experienced judges were also able to attend graduate sessions at these institutions or seminars by the Appellate Judges Conference and seminars by other agencies of the American Bar Association. In addition, administrative staff members were able to attend programs of the Institute for Court Management or other training programs for court personnel.

In-state judicial education programs included a two-day seminar in June that

featured a full-day consideration of "Developing Victims' Rights in the Judicial Process." Guest lecturer on this topic was the Honorable V. Robert Payant, who is the State Court Administrator in Michigan and was the Associate Dean of the National Judicial College where he acted as coordinator of the 1983 National Conference on Victims' Rights. Judge Payant told Rhode Island judges of programs in other states for dealing with the needs of victims within the judicial process, and he presented both the successes and problems other jurisdictions were having with this issue. He described the national victims' rights movement and the pressure it was putting on legislatures and law enforcement agencies as well as courts. In the afternoon Rhode Island judges Robert Pirraglia, Pamela Macktaz, and Paul Pederzani joined Judge Payant for a panel and general discussion on victims' rights issues in the Rhode Island Courts, including the impact of recent statutes and a state constitutional amendment on this subject.

On the second day of this seminar there was a presentation on "Recent Developments in Fourth Amendment Interpretation" by Honorable Charles E. Moylan of the Maryland Court of Appeals. Judge Moylan, an expert on the law of search and seizure, analyzed the impact of recent decisions in this important area of evidence. He also shared his own observations on possible future directions for upcoming Supreme Court decisions.

The state judges also participated in the joint Annual Bar Meeting and Judicial Conference. Supreme Court Justice Joseph Weisberger and Superior Court Justice John Bourcier helped prepare and present a review of recent appellate decisions with significant impact on the state of law, and Justice Corinne P. Grande presented a progress report from the Committee on Women in the Courts.

Beginning this year, $5,000.00 of the education program allocation was reserved for distribution to court employees within the bargaining unit represented by Local 808 of the Judicial, Professional, and Technical Employees Union. Administered by a union-management committee, this program reimburses employees for tuition, books and other education costs. Estimates made from applications received by the end of the year, showed that requests could likely consume the full amount committed in the union contract for the 1985-1986 fiscal year.

SUPERIOR COURT

FELONY CASELOAD REDUCED IN PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL AND KENT COUNTIES

The Superior Court results for 1986 show that in two categories, felony filings and cases added to the civil trial calendar, the workload has decreased slightly. On the other hand, there have been increases this year in the number of misdemeanor appeals and in civil filings as a whole.

Courtwide there were 4,368 felonies filed, which was 412 or 8.6% less than in 1985. This decrease was due to a large drop in filings in Kent County, while the other counties only showed modest declines. In Kent filings totalled 619, which was almost 1/3 less (290 cases) than in 1985. However, in Providence County the difference was only 67 cases, in Washington County it was 24 cases, and in Newport County it was 31 cases.

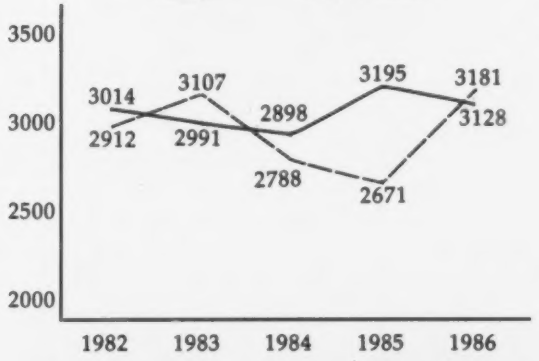
The number of civil cases added to the calendar was also lower this year. There were 2,764 cases added courtwide, which was a decrease of 154 or about 5%. On the civil side the drop was based on the results in Providence and Newport Counties. In Providence there were 140 fewer civil cases added to the calendar compared to last year, and in Newport the difference was 25 cases.

On the other hand, civil filings rose by 130 cases in 1986. The number filed courtwide was 7,862, and this was the second year that civil filings have risen. For the two year period the increase has been equivalent to about 8% (568 cases), and, as shown above, this has not had any effect on the trial calendar.

The other area where the caseload has increased has been in misdemeanor appeals, particularly in Providence and Washington Counties. Statewide there were 1,162 appeals filed in 1986, which was 232 or 25% more than a year ago. However, in Providence misdemeanor filings rose from 486 to 767, a jump of 62%, and in Washington County the number went from 96 to 158, an increase of 64%. In contrast, in both Kent and Newport Counties, misdemeanor filings dropped by almost a third this year.

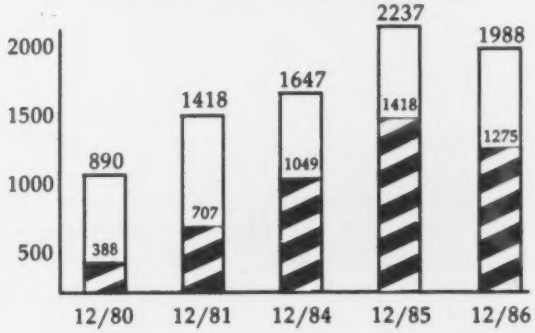
Disposition results were also varied. On the criminal calendar in Providence County, felony dispositions were higher than in any of the previous four years, and for the first time in three years dispositions exceeded filings by 53 cases. Felony filings totalled 3,128 for the year, and there were 3,181 cases disposed.

PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTIES
FELONY CASEFLOW
— Filings ———Dispositions



Due to these results, the pending felony caseload has been reduced this year. At the end of the year there were 1,988 cases pending, which was 249 less than

PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTIES
PENDING FELONY CASES
□ all cases ■ cases over 180 days old

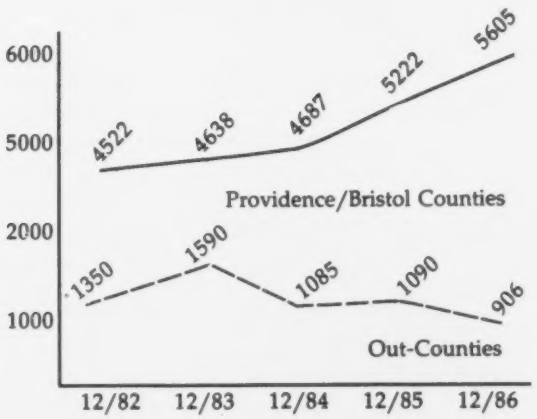


at the beginning. The number of cases over 180 days old was also reduced, although these cases still represent 64% of the total.

Misdemeanor dispositions were also higher in Providence County than in the past several years, but they did not keep up with the record number of appeals this year. There were 601 misdemeanors disposed compared to 407 a year ago, but this was 166 short of the number filed.

On the other hand, there was no progress this year in reducing the civil trial caseload in Providence County. The number disposed was 1,665, which was approximately the same as in 1985. This was 391 less than the number added, and at the end of the year the number pending on the calendar was up to 5,605.

CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR
PENDING CASELOAD

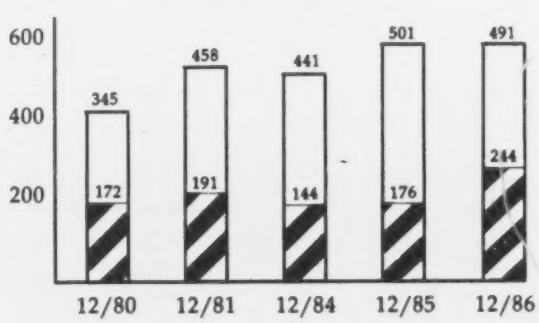


In the counties, the results for Kent stand out. This year dispositions in Kent County exceeded filings in all categories. There were 677 felony cases disposed, which was 58 more than were filed, misdemeanor dispositions exceeded filings by 92, and on the civil calendar there were 160 more cases disposed than were added. The only area not addressed in Kent, was the number of felony cases over 180 days old. This number remained the same (105 cases) despite a decrease in the total. As a result, the older cases went from 39.2% of the caseload to 52.2%.

OUT-COUNTIES
FELONY CASEFLOW
— Filings – – – Dispositions

In contrast to Kent, felony dispositions and dispositions on the civil trial calendar were below the number filed in both Washington and Newport Counties, so that at the end of the year the caseloads increased in both of these categories. There was also an increase in the felony backlog in both counties this year. At the end of the year the number of felonies over 180 days old stood at 77 (an increase of 25) in Washington County, and in Newport it stood at 62 (an increase of 44).

OUT-COUNTIES
PENDING FELONY CASES
□ all cases
■ cases over 180 days old



TWO NEW JUDGES APPOINTED TO THE SUPERIOR COURT

There were two judicial appointments to the Superior Court this year. The appointees filled the vacancies created by the resignations of Associate Justice Ernest C. Torres and Associate Justice Ronald R. Lagueux. The new appointees to the Superior Court were the Honorable Robert D. Krause and the Honorable Americo Campanella.

Associate Justice Americo Campanella was appointed to the Superior Court on March 7, 1986. Judge Campanella attended Manhattan College and graduated from Boston University Law School in 1950. In addition to his private law practice, Judge Campanella served as legal counsel for the Office of Price Stabilization from 1951-1952 and the R.I. Registry of Motor Vehicles from 1962-1963. He also served as the First Assistant Attorney General under former state Attorney General Herbert F. DeSimone from 1967-1971 and was the Chairman of the East Greenwich Housing Authority from 1973-1981.

Associate Justice Robert D. Krause was appointed to Superior Court November 20, 1986. He is a graduate of Amherst College (1967) and Georgetown University Law School (1970). Judge Krause served as a law clerk at the Federal Judicial Center (1969-1979) and clerked in the U.S. District Court in Baltimore, Maryland (1970-1971). In addition to seven (7) years of private practice in Rhode Island, Washington D.C. and California, Judge Krause served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of California from 1974-1978 and for Rhode Island from 1982 until 1986.

NEW CHIEF SUPERVISORY CLERK AND THREE NEW COUNTY CLERKS APPOINTED

The position of Chief Supervisory Clerk of Superior Court and those of the clerks of each county are all gubernatorial appointments. The appointees must be confirmed by the state senate, and they serve terms of five years. In 1986 all of these positions came up for appointment, and the following are the individuals who have been named by Governor DiPrete.

Mrs. Alice McDonald Macintosh was appointed the Chief Supervisory Clerk of Superior Court. A native Rhode Islander, Mrs. Macintosh is a graduate of Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois and the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Bank Marketing Management. In addition, she has received an Honorary Ph.D. in Business Administration from Providence College.

Mrs. Macintosh was a marketing consultant and Director of Development for Justice Assistance, a private non-profit Rhode Island criminal justice agency. Prior to that she was Vice-President for Marketing at Hospital Trust National Bank. She is Chairman of the Board of the AAA Auto Club and a board member of Narragansett Electric, Providence College, and the Rhode Island Special Olympics. She is also the treasurer of the Convention Authority of the City of Providence and a trustee of St. Joseph Church in Providence. In addition to these activities, Mrs. Macintosh has served as an officer in numerous state and regional business and banking associations.

Mr. Glenn E. Nippert was appointed Clerk of the Superior Court for Newport County. Mr. Nippert is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and received his law degree from the University of Kentucky. He retired from the United States Navy in 1966 and has been in private practice in Rhode Island from 1967 until his appointment by the Governor.

Mrs. Diane Seeman was sworn in as Clerk of Washington County Superior Court. Mrs. Seeman, a life-long Rhode Island resident, began her state service in 1968 in the Washington County Clerk's Office. She was made Deputy Clerk in 1981 and held that position until her recent five (5) year appointment as Clerk.

Newly appointed Chief Clerk Alice Macintosh (L) meets with supervisory clerks.

Mr. Richard Cedor was sworn in on March 7, 1986 as the Clerk of the Providence/Bristol Counties. Mr. Cedor is a 1975 graduate of Johnson and Wales College. He was employed by the Providence Gravure Inc., printing company for twenty-two (22) years prior to his appointment as Clerk. He was a member of the state printers union for sixteen years and served as president and vice-president of that union. He is a ten (10) year member of the Glocester Town Council and has served as the council's president. He is presently serving as the vice president of the town council.

Mr. Ernest Raposa was reappointed as the Clerk of Kent County Superior Court. Mr. Raposa was first named clerk by Governor Garrahy in 1983 to complete the unexpired term of Thomas Mooty following his retirement. Mr. Raposa has worked in the Rhode Island court system for 15 years. He started as an assistant clerk in Providence County in 1971. In 1972 he was promoted to deputy clerk, and he was assigned to Kent County. Then in 1977 he was promoted to principal deputy clerk.

NEW PROGRAMS INITIATED IN SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS' OFFICES

There have been several initiatives this past year which have improved the operation of the Clerks' Offices. The major emphasis of these efforts has been a striving to ensure adequate training for staff and provide a clear, consistent and timely dissemination of pertinent information to all staff.

One example has been the development of an information packet for new employees. The material welcomes employees and provides them with valuable material about the judicial system and their role in that system as well as information regarding employee benefits. As another example, bi-weekly county clerk meetings and quarterly staff meetings have also been initiated to provide a forum for training and discussion of relevant issues and concerns. A procedural manual has also been developed for Clerks' Office personnel. The manual is divided into three (3) areas of operation. The areas addressed are administrative procedures, courtroom procedures, and other procedures dealing with the handling of all monies. The manual has a forms section for reference and training and can be easily updated to ensure that information is current.

Another initiative has been the establishment of an intern program. This program affords young people who are interested in the judicial system an op-

portunity to observe various aspects of Superior Court proceedings.

In another area a pilot project has been developed by R.I.J.S.S. and implemented in Kent County automating the operation of the Superior Courts Registry. The Registry is responsible for tracking all monies assessed and collected by the court as a result of fines, court costs and payments to the Victim Indemnity Fund. This new system has resulted in a reduction in paper work and an overall improvement in the system's efficiency. Because of this project's success the system will be implemented this year in Newport County.

In Providence County an automated banking procedure has been implemented which has also greatly improved the functioning of the Registry. In the past over two-hundred (200) pass book accounts were maintained manually by court personnel. The new procedure was the result of seven (7) banks presenting proposals to the court. It involves the investment of fees, fines, and other funds in money market accounts which receive competitive interest. In this new system the banks handle the record keeping and provide the court with regular print-outs. The system was initially undertaken in Providence County due to the large sums of monies being handled and the tremendous amount of time required to track the monies. Since it has been so successful, it will be expanded to the counties.

NEW "CASE SCHEDULING OFFICE" ESTABLISHED FOR CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES

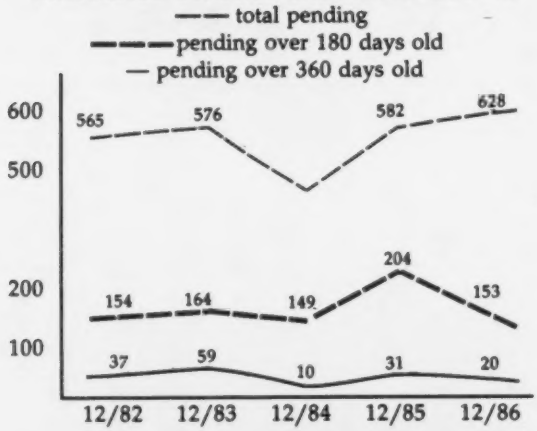
The former "Criminal Scheduling Office" and "Civil Assignment Office" in Providence County Superior Court have been merged into one new office, the "Case Scheduling Office." The Case Scheduling Office is now responsible for the scheduling of matters on all criminal and civil calendars.

The merging of the offices follows an administrative order issued by Presiding Justice Anthony A. Giannini which transferred all administrative functions for civil case scheduling to the Superior Court Administrator. The combining of the criminal and civil scheduling office will improve scheduling operations and will provide a single location for information.

FAMILY COURT CASELOAD CONTINUES TO EXPAND

The Family Court results for calendar year 1986 show that the workload of the court is continuing to expand, and the area with the greatest increase has been the contested divorce calendar. Although the number of divorce petitions was about the same as a year ago (there were 4,926 petitions filed this year as compared to 5,015 in 1985), contested cases have risen by 17%. Last year there were 842 cases added to the contested calendar, and this year the number has jumped to 985.

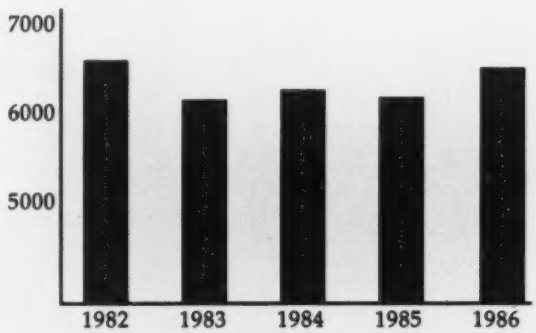
CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR RESULTS



The court addressed this increase by disposing of a record number of contested matters this year. There were 939 contested cases disposed in all, which was 199 more than a year ago. Yet despite this, dispositions still fell 46 short of the number added, and at the end of December the contested caseload stood at 628.

Despite this increase in caseload, the number of cases that have been pending more than six months decreased from 35.1% to 27.5% of the pending caseload. Most notably, Providence County contested divorce cases pending more than six months decreased from 44.7% to 23.1% of the caseload, and, in Kent County, the cases pending more than six months accounted for only 22.3% of the caseload. Because Newport County and Washington County judges were called upon two days per week to assist in Providence on the domestic abuse and motion calendars, the number of pending contested divorce cases increased in both counties. It is envisioned that the court will have its full complement of judges by the Spring of 1987, which will allow the judges assigned to Newport and Washington to remain in the counties five days per week to address the juvenile and domestic relations caseloads. Additionally, two retired judges will be assisting in these counties.

JUVENILE FILINGS



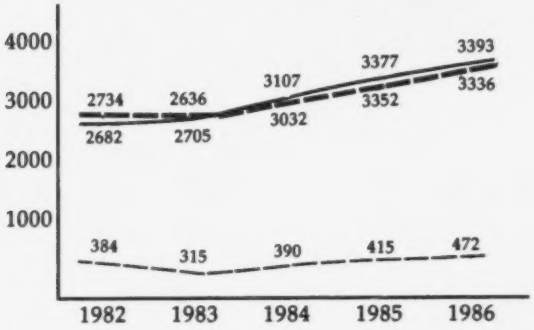
On a statewide basis, the juvenile caseload continued to increase with 6,789 cases filed as compared to 6,558 for the previous year. This represented a 3.2% increase over the previous calendar year filings. In the Wayward/Delinquent category, filings increased by 7.7% as compared to the previous year. Adoptions also increased by 15.6%, and termination of parental rights filings increased by 6.9%. The one notable decrease involved dependency/neglect/abuse filings which dropped by 15.7%. Filings in this category were therefore more comparable to the filings for 1983 and 1984.

Despite an overall increase in the juvenile caseload, and the fact that the court has been one judge below its full complement since July, 1986, only 28% of the juvenile criminal and civil cases have been pending more than ninety days from date of filing with the Clerk's Office.

In regard to cases disposed on the juvenile calendar during 1986, the median processing time for wayward/delinquent matters was 50 days from date of filing, while the median processing time for dependency/neglect/abuse and termination filings was 70 days.

JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR RESULTS

— added ——disposed — —pending



DOMESTIC ABUSE FILINGS INCREASE

Domestic abuse filings continued to increase during the past year. The total number filed in 1986 was 1,985, as compared to 1,475 in 1985 and 974 in 1984. This represents a 34.6% rise in filings of this type over the number filed in the previous calendar year, and compared to two years ago, domestic abuse filings have more than doubled.

Although domestic abuse filings have become a substantial percentage of the Family Court workload, no additional judicial or clerical staff have been appointed to the court. As a result, the court has relied primarily on volunteers to assist persons filing domestic abuse complaints, and the Rhode Island Council on Domestic Violence has been instrumental in recruiting and training these volunteers.

The Council is presently seeking private funding to provide for a full-time coordinator for the volunteer program. Funding will also be requested to provide part-time legal services. The person or agency receiving this segment of the grant will conduct legal training for volunteers and develop an informational packet which will outline the entire legal process relating to domestic abuse complaints. If the proposal is funded, the volunteer coordinator will be stationed at the Garrahy Complex by April, 1987, and the informational packet should be available shortly thereafter.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE WILLIAM R. GOLDBERG NAMED CHIEF JUDGE OF THE FAMILY COURT

On February 14, 1986, Associate Justice William R. Goldberg became the third chief judge of the Family Court following the retirement of Chief Judge Edward P. Gallogly. Judge Goldberg has served on the Family Court bench since August 22, 1968. Prior to becoming a family court judge, Chief Judge Goldberg was a probate judge for the City of Pawtucket for twelve years. He has served as a past president of the Rhode Island Bar Association and the Pawtucket Bar Association, and he presently serves on many boards in the community. He is also the Rhode Island Bar Association Delegate to the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Judicial Selection, Tenure and Compensation of the American Bar Association.

JEREMIAH S. JEREMIAH, JR. APPOINTED TO THE FAMILY COURT

Governor DiPrete appointed Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr. as an Associate Justice of the Family Court on March 7, 1986. Judge Jeremiah graduated from Boston University in 1957 and received his law degree from Boston University School of Law in 1960.

Judge Jeremiah practiced law in Rhode Island for twenty-three (23) years, with his father, prior to accepting his present position on the Family Court bench. Judge Jeremiah served as law clerk to retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Thomas Paolino. He served the City of Cranston as an Assistant City Solicitor for seventeen (17) years and as the City Solicitor for six (6) years. In addition, he served as Governor DiPrete's Executive Counsel.

Associate Justice Jeremiah was appointed to fill the vacancy resulting from the elevation of Associate Justice William R. Goldberg to the position of Chief Judge of the Family Court.

OFFICE OF THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE RECEIVES THREE AWARDS IN 1986

The Rhode Island Family Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) recruits and trains volunteer advocates who conduct independent investigations of the factors leading to a child's removal from his biological home. The volunteers (VCASAs) monitor case progress through the Family Court and child welfare system to ensure that every child and their family receive the necessary services to be reunited. In 1986 the program represented approximately 1900 children in foster and institutional care in Rhode Island. In addition, there were seventy-four new VCASAs trained by program staff. Presently there are approximately two-hundred trained volunteers who are active in the program.

CASA volunteers continue to bring recognition for their outstanding effort.

The excellence of representation provided by Rhode Island's VCASAs was recognized by the United States Department of Health and Human Services by awarding CASA the 1986 Outstanding Volunteer Award. In addition, the Justice Assistance Corporation of Rhode Island awarded the program their 1986 Human Assistance Award, and the program was also selected as the recipient of the Governor's Model Volunteer Program Award. The Rhode Island program was also selected by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to be featured in a documentary about the CASA concept. The documentary was produced in Rhode Island and has been distributed to approximately two hundred and twenty-five (225) television stations across the country.

NEW INITIATIVES IN THE AWARD AND ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT

Because of state and federal legislation specially directed towards child support enforcement, collections through the Family Court have increased dramatically over the past four years. The following figures depict the rapid increase in collections from calendar year 1983 to calendar year 1986:

1983	$ 7,782,311
1984	$ 8,910,343
1985	$10,140,017
1986	$11,957,881

Among the various statutes that have been recommended by the Joint Legislative Commission on Child Support Enforcement and subsequently enacted by the General Assembly are wage and income assignment, set-off of federal and state income tax refunds, assignment of tangible personal property of delinquent spouses, and assignment of pension benefits.

During 1986 the focus by members of the court, the Joint Legislative Commission on Child Support Enforcement, and the Family Court Bench-Bar Committee has been on developing guidelines (formula-based child support) for the establishment of uniform child support orders. Federal legislation requires the establishment of formula-based child support by October, 1987.

In addition to recommending child support legislation to the states, the federal government also offers 70% reimbursement for court services directly related to child support enforcement. Items that qualify for reimbursement include salaries, fringe benefits, telephone charges and computer costs. During 1986, the court billed the federal government for $396,183 in reimbursement costs. Such reimbursement was directed to the general fund of the state.

Additionally, the court was made aware of reimbursement for indirect costs associated with child support enforcement. Included in such reimbursement is a percentage of administrative costs of the Family Court, State Court Administrator's Office and certain executive department agencies such as Personnel, Budget, and Accounts and Control. For 1986, the state received $117,702 in federal reimbursement for such indirect costs.

The court will continue to work with the Joint Legislative Commission on Child Support Enforcement, the Bench-Bar Committee, and the Bureau of Family Support to support legislation and develop procedures to enhance this state's child support enforcement program.

COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION DEBUTS

Computer-aided transcription technology was fully implemented in the Rhode Island Courts in the spring of 1986 with the installation of the computer equipment. Computer-aided transcription technology is designed to reduce the time required to produce a stenographer's transcript by transferring to a computer many of the time consuming functions of translating stenotype notes into English. As the stenographer records court proceedings on a stenotype machine in open court, a cassette tape copy of the stenotype notes is simultaneouly produced. The cassette tape is then fed into a computer where the stenotype notes are translated into English. The stenographer then edits the transcript on a cathode ray tube and prints the transcript.

Rhode Island is unique in that we are the only state in the nation to use CAT on a statewide basis in both the Superior and Family Courts. The State of Rhode Island and the Court Reporters Alliance agreed to a joint venture where both parties

would split the cost of CAT until the contract is paid in full.

The potential for CAT technology in the Rhode Island courts is great. For example, in the future it will allow judges to give written instructions to the jury, which jury members can then refer to during their deliberations.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES HELD IN RHODE ISLAND

Chief Justice Thomas F. Fay and the Rhode Island Family Court served as the host for the 49th Annual National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference held at the Providence Marriott from July 13-18, 1986. The National Council, which was founded in 1937, is the oldest national judicial organization in the United States. One of the primary goals of the council is to offer continuing education and training to the nation's judiciary.

The 1986 conference attracted five hundred (500) individuals from thirty-six (36) states and Washington, D.C. The conference opened with a keynote address from Mr. Arnold I. Burns, the Associate United States Attorney General. Opening remarks were also presented by Mr. Verne L. Speirs, the Acting Administrator of the United States Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention.

Highlighted during the conference were the Family Court's information system and the Garrahy Judicial Complex building, which were used as models to assist other jurisdictions in the United States in their endeavors in the field of juvenile and family law. A further highlight of the conference was the unveiling of an innovative program developed jointly by the Family Court and a state health care program to provide medical coverage for children in families that are receiving court ordered child support payments but are without adequate medical coverage.

The educational component of the conference dealt with a number of major areas of concern that impact directly on children and their families. Some of the major topics addressed were in the area of the sexually abused child, the child as a witness, and the sentencing and treatment of child sex offenders. In addition, the conference dealt with the entire area of juvenile drug use, ranging from education and prevention to the treatment and rehabilitation of a drug troubled youth. The conference further addressed the area of the media's impact on child and family development as well as the system's handling of the juvenile career criminal.

The educational program was funded primarily by the conference tuition and fees, but additional monies to assist in making this conference a tremendous success were appropriated by the Governor and General Assembly.

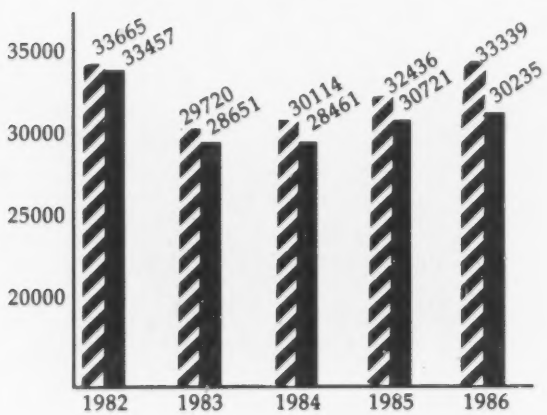
DISTRICT COURT

WORKLOAD IN DISTRICT COURT CONTINUES TO INCREASE

The District Court results for 1986 show that the workload of the court has continued to increase in all areas, although the rate of growth was not as high as in 1985. When all the categories are combined, total filings in the District Court reached 75,342 this year. Compared to 1985 this was an increase of 1.6%, but compared to 1984 it was an increase of 9.2%

On the criminal side there were 41, 572 filings in 1986, and, of this total, 33,339, or about 80% were misdemeanors. Misdemeanors increased only a slight amount compared to last year. The total filed in this category rose by 903 cases or 3%. Nevertheless, the misdemeanor caseload has been growing steadily since 1983, and for the first time in four years it has climbed back up to the levels of 1981 and 1982 when filings were at their highest point.

MISDEMEANORS AND VIOLATIONS
Filings vs. Dispositions
▨ Filings ■ Dispositions



Moreover, every division showed an increase in misdemeanor filings for the year, and in four of the divisions they were at an all time high. Those with record filings were the third, the fifth, the sixth and the seventh divisions.

MISDEMEANOR AND VIOLATION FILINGS BY DIVISION

	1983	1984	1985	1986
1st	972	1255	1196	1220
2nd	3984	3656	3405	3690
3rd	5384	5713	5899	6164
4th	4674	4285	4798	4840
5th	2926	3248	3624	3789
6th	6020	5883	6693	6735
7th	2312	2461	2779	2804
8th	3448	3612	4042	4097

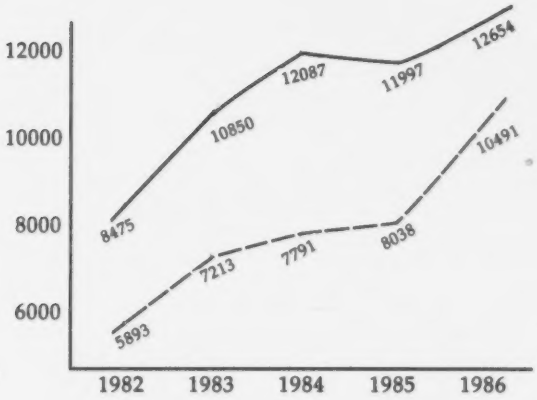
Felony filings, on the other hand, decreased by a marginal amount. Total filings in this category were 8,233 which was 99 less than a year ago. In fact, felony filings have been fairly constant now for three years in a row.

On the civil side, filings reached a new all time high, breaking last year's record. The number of civil filings for the year was 33,770, which was 377 or 1% above the total for 1985. This rise was due to small claims, which totalled 12,654 for the year, an increase of 657 compared to a year ago. This was the largest number of small claims ever filed in the District Court. Since passage of legislation raising the limit for small claims, the number of claims has gone up by 50%

In contrast, regular civil filings have tapered off slightly this year. The total number filed was 21,116, which was a decrease of 280 compared to 1985.

Along with the increase in filings there was an increase in dispositions on the civil side, especially for small claims. Small claims dispositions totalled 10, 491 which was 2,453 more than in 1985. Also the disposition rate for this category was 82.9% as compared to 67% a year ago.

SMALL CLAIMS
FILINGS vs. DISPOSITIONS
— Filings
– – –Dispositions

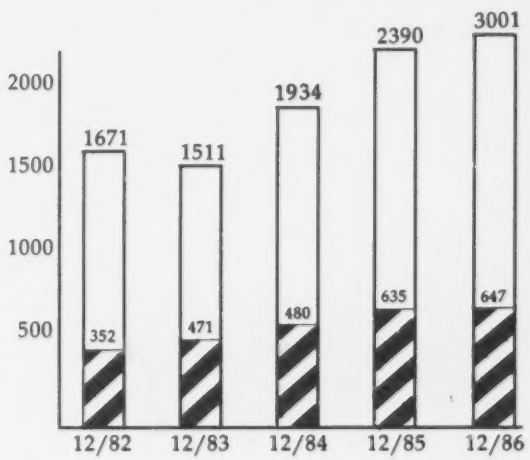


Regular Civil dispositions were also higher. The number disposed was 16,770, which was an increase of 2,047 compared to last year. The disposition rate also rose from 68.8% to 79.4%. However, the rate has been higher in the past. For example, it was as high as 84.6% in 1982, and 81.2% in 1983.

In contrast to the civil side, there was a decline in misdemeanor dispositions this year, despite higher filings. The total number disposed was 30,235, which left a gap of 3,104 between incoming cases and cases disposed. This was a much wider gap than usual as demonstrated by comparing the disposition rate to that of previous years. In the past four years the rate has ranged from a low of 94.5% to a high of 99.4%, whereas this year it was only 90.7%.

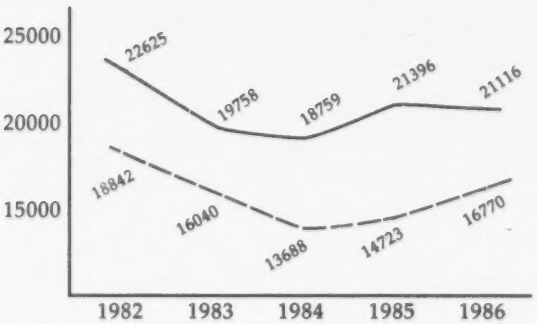
At the end of the year the divisions reported a total of 3,001 non-warranted misdemeanors still pending, and of this total there were 647 cases over 60 days old. This was the largest number of cases reported at year's end pending beyond the guideline. However, while it was a larger number, it was a smaller percent of the caseload (21.5%) than last year (26.6%).

PENDING MISDEMEANOR CASELOAD
☐ all cases
▩ cases over 60 days old



CIVIL FILINGS vs. DISPOSITIONS

— Filings
– – –Dispositions



There were six police departments which together accounted for almost one half of the cases pending more than sixty days. These were Newport with 39 cases, East Providence with 44, Pawtucket with 53, Providence with 72, Cranston with 65, and Johnston with 41. Addressing the backlog in these departments would significantly reduce the number of older cases pending courtwide.

NEW CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT NAMED

In December 1986, Governor Edward DiPrete appointed Superior Court Associate Justice Albert E. DeRobbio as the new Chief Judge of the District Court. The new Chief Judge is a graduate of Boston University Law School and has been a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association since 1956. Chief Judge DeRobbio served as an Assistant Attorney General before becoming a District Court judge in 1976. In 1979 he was appointed to the Superior Court, where he served until his recent appointment. Chief Judge DeRobbio fills the vacancy left by the death of Chief Judge Henry E. Laliberte on June 12, 1986.

ANTONIO SAO BENTO, JR. APPOINTED TO THE DISTRICT COURT

On May 23, 1986, Representative Antonio Sao Bento, Jr., was sworn in by Governor DiPrete as a District Court judge. Judge Sao Bento filled the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Robert J. McOsker. Judge Sao Bento graduated from Providence College in 1953 and served in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1956. He received his law degree from New England Law School in 1961 and worked in his own private law practice for twenty five (25) years until his appointment to the bench. Judge Sao Bento was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives in 1976 and served as Deputy Majority Leader from 1980 to 1986. In addition to being a member of the Pawtucket Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association, Judge Sao Bento is involved in numerous civic and community organizations.

NEW CHIEF CLERK APPOINTED TO DISTRICT COURT

Mr. Jerome Smith was appointed to a five (5) year term as the Chief Clerk of the District Court by Governor DiPrete. Mr. Smith, a Woonsocket native, attended Bryant College and the University of Rhode Island. He served as a Woonsocket state representative from 1969-1974 and as a state senator from 1974-1987. Mr. Smith assumed his new duties on July 1, 1986.

Jerome Smith replaces Gerard J. Bouley who served one term as chief clerk. Mr. Bouley died in March, 1986.

Eight divisions of the District Court are represented with new Chief Clerk Smith. (2R)

COMPUTERIZED RECORD SYSTEM FOR BAIL RECEIPTS INTRODUCED

After being tested in one division of the District Court in 1985 the court has introduced a computerized record keeping

system for bail receipts and disbursements. This is the first step in the development of an automated accounting system. In planning for the full implementation of this type of accounting system, an instruction manual has been prepared. This manual was presented and reviewed at the monthly clerks' meeting. This manual will be used to provide ongoing training to insure full and proper use of the system.

In addition, the court has installed an automated numbering system in each of the divisions to ensure that all complaints are properly accounted for and recorded. Program changes have also been made in the recently installed electronic cash registers to improve the capabilities they provide the system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chief Justice Joseph A. Bevilacqua

Chief Justice Bevilacqua retired on June 30, 1986. Having served as Chief Justice since 1976, his ten year tenure as Chief Justice was one of the longest in the state's history. As the head of the judicial system, Chief Justice Bevilacqua was responsible for introducing automated case tracking systems in the Superior and Supreme Courts. Under his direction programs to reduce delay were implemented in all of the courts. Chief Justice Bevilacqua is also credited with the upgrading of Rhode Island's Judicial facilities. He utilized the Public Building Authority to provide funding for the construction of the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex, the first judicial building construction in 50 years. He was also responsible for initiating the renovation of the Frank Licht Judicial Complex.

Chief Judge Edward P. Gallogly

Chief Judge Gallogly of the Family Court served in this position since his appointment to the bench in 1969. During his career the court expanded from four associate justices to ten associate justices with the addition of a Master. Under Judge Gallogly's direction a more efficient case processing system was initiated through the implementation of time standards. He also initiated an automated case tracking system for juvenile cases, which serves as a model nationwide. In addition, Judge Gallogly assumed an active role in the creation of the Family Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA), which is a special unit of trained volunteers who assist and monitor juvenile cases. The recipient of various awards, this program too, now serves as a model nationwide. Judge Gallogly retired from the court January 10, 1986.

Chief Judge Henry E. Laliberte
(May 24, 1919-June 13, 1986)

The Honorable Henry E. Laliberte died on June 13, 1986. Judge Laliberte was appointed Chief Judge of the District Court in 1969, and he served in this capacity for seventeen years. As Chief Judge, he was responsible for initiating a more efficient case processing system to reduce the misdemeanor backlog in District Court. Under his leadership time standards were implemented and successfully met.

Associate Justice Ronald R. Lageux

Appointed to the bench in 1968, Judge Lageux served as an Associate Justice of the Superior Court for over eighteen years. Although he served on the criminal calendar as well, Judge Lageux is most distinguished by his service on the civil calendar where he contributed greatly to the reduction of the case backlog. Following his retirement from Superior Court on September 5, 1986 Judge Lageux was appointed by President Reagan to serve on the U.S. District Court in Providence where he is currently sitting.

Associate Judge Robert J. McOsker

Appointed to the District Court in 1973, Judge McOsker served as an Associate Judge for thirteen years. He retired March 6, 1986.

1986 COURT DIRECTORY

SUPREME COURT

THOMAS F. FAY, Chief Justice
THOMAS F. KELLEHER, Associate Justice
JOSEPH R. WEISBERGER, Associate Justice
FLORENCE K. MURRAY, Associate Justice
DONALD F. SHEA, Associate Justice

SUPERIOR COURT

ANTHONY A. GIANNINI, Presiding Justice
EUGENE F. COCHRAN, Associate Justice
EUGENE G. GALLANT, Associate Justice
JOHN E. ORTON, III, Associate Justice
THOMAS H. NEEDHAM Associate Justice
JOHN P. BOURCIER, Associate Justice
JOSEPH R. ROGERS, JR., Associate Justice
CLIFFORD J. CAWLEY, Associate Justice
CORINNE P. GRANDE, Associate Justice
ALBERT E. DeROBBIO, Associate Justice
DOMENIC F. CRESTO, Associate Justice
FRANCIS M. KIELY, Associate Justice
PAUL P. PEDERZANI, Associate Justice
THOMAS J. CALDARONE, Associate Justice
RICHARD J. ISRAEL, Associate Justice
AMERICO CAMPANELLA, Associate Justice
ROBERT D. KRAUSE, Associate Justice

FAMILY COURT

WILLIAM R. GOLDBERG, Chief Judge
EDWARD V. HEALEY, JR., Associate Justice
CARMINE R. DiPETRILLO, Associate Justice
ROBERT G. CROUCHLEY, Associate Justice
JOHN K. NAJARIAN, Associate Justice
JOSEPH S. GENDRON, Associate Justice
HAIGANUSH R. BEDROSIAN, Associate Justice
JOHN E. FUYAT, Associate Justice
PAMELA M. MACKTAZ, Associate Justice
JEREMIAH S. JEREMIAH, JR., Associate Justice

DISTRICT COURT

CHARLES F. TRUMPETTO, Acting Chief Judge
ORIST D. CHAHARYN, Associate Judge
PAUL J. DELNERO, Associate Judge
ANTHONY J. DENNIS, Associate Judge
VICTOR J. BERETTA, Associate Judge
VINCENT A. RAGOSTA, Associate Judge
JOHN J. CAPPELLI, Associate Judge
MICHAEL A. HIGGINS, Associate Judge
ALTON W. WILEY, Associate Judge
FRANCIS J. DARIGAN, JR., Associate Judge
ROBERT K. PIRRAGLIA, Associate Judge
ANTONIO SAO BENTO, JR., Associate Judge

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

SUPREME COURT:

250 Benefit St., Providence, RI

Walter J. Kane, Administrator, State Courts/Clerk	277-3272
Ronald A. Tutalo, Administrative Asst. to Chief Justice	277-3073
Robert C. Harrall, Deputy Administrator, State Courts	277-3266
Brian B. Burns, Chief Deputy Clerk	277-3272
John J. Manning, Business Manager	277-3266
Kendall F. Svengalis, State Law Librarian	277-3275
Frank J. Sylvia Security Supervisor	277-2600
Martha Newcomb, Chief Appellate Screening Unit	277-3297
Susan W. McCalmont, Assistant Administrator for Policy and Programs	277-2500
Edward J. Plunkett, Jr., Executive Director, Rhode Island Judicial Systems & Sciences (RIJSS)	277-3358
William A. Melone, Assistant Administrator for Human and Financial Resources	277-2700
Robert E. Johnson, Assistant Administrator for Facilities and Operations	277-2600
Linda D. Bonaccorsi, Employee Relations Officer	277-2700
Thomas A. Dorazio, E.E.O. Officer	277-2700
Frank A. Ciccone, Court Records Center	277-2700
Donald Curran, Central Registry	277-2064

SUPERIOR COURT:

250 Benefit St., Providence, RI

John J. Hogan, Administrator	277-3215
Alice M. MacIntosh, Chief Supervisory Clerk	277-2622
Richard J. Cedor, Clerk	277-3250
Alfred Travers, Jr., Jury Commissioner	277-3245
Bonnie L. Williamson, Calendar Coordinator Civil & Criminal	277-3602
Thomas P. McGann, Public Contact Officer	277-3292

KENT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Ernest W. Reposa, Clerk 822-1311
222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

Raymond D. Gallogly, Associate Jury Commissioner 822-0400
222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

Thomas G. Healey, Criminal Scheduling Officer 277-6645
222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Diane L. Seeman, Clerk 783-5441
1693 Kingstown Road
West Kingston, RI 02892

NEWPORT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Glenn E. Nippert, Clerk 846-5556
Eisenhower Square
Newport, RI 02840

FAMILY COURT

1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, RI

Joseph D. Butler, Administrator 277-3334
Anthony T. Panichas, Deputy Court Administrator 277-3334
John J. O'Brien, Master 277-3360
Dolores M. Murphy, Chief Juvenile Intake Supervisor 277-3345
Barbara Rogers, Chief Family Counselor 277-3362
Supervisor of Collections 277-3356
Mary A. McKenna, Fiscal Officer 277-3300
George J. Salome, Chief Deputy Clerk (Domestic Relations) 277-3340
Janet Diano, Principal Deputy Clerk (Juvenile) 277-3352
Mary M. Lisi, CASA/GAL Director 277-6853

DISTRICT COURT

1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, RI

SIXTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Jerome Smith, Chief Clerk 277-6703
Joseph Senerchia, Administrative Assistant to Chief Clerk 277-6777

FIRST DIVISON DISTRICT COURT

Cynthia C. Clegg, Supervising Deputy Clerk 245-7977
516 Main Street
Warren, RI 02885

SECOND DIVISON DISTRICT COURT

Frances J. Connelly, Supervising Deputy Clerk 846-6500
Eisenhower Square
Newport, RI 02840

THIRD DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

James A. Signorelli, Supervising Deputy Clerk 822-1771
222 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893

FOURTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Rosemary Cantley, (Acting) Supervising Deputy Clerk 783-3328
1693 Kingstown Road
West Kingston, RI 02892

FIFTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Robert Kando, Supervising Deputy Clerk 722-1024
145 Roosevelt Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02865

SEVENTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Donald L. St. Pierre, Supervising Deputy Clerk 762-2700
24 Front Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895

EIGHTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Martha J. Cerra, Supervising Deputy Clerk 944-5550
275 Atwood Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

JUDICIAL COUNCIL:

1025 Fleet National Bank Building
Providence, RI 02903
Charles J. McGovern, Chairman
Girard R. Visconti, Secretary 331-3800

DISCIPLINARY BOARD:

250 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903
Ernest N. Agresti, Esq. Chairman
Frank H. Carter, Disciplinary Counsel 277-3270

CASELOAD STATISTICS

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

APPELLATE CASEFLOW

CASE TYPES	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
CRIMINAL					
Added	97	103	91	84	107
Disposed	122	117	107	84	71
Pending	105	82	65	60	102
CIVIL					
Added	328	391	349	283	237
Disposed	334	340	399	339	379
Pending	459	519	465	385	266
CERTIORARI					
Added	124	122	129	177	155
Disposed	132	120	112	162	172
Pending	83	87	104	117	103
OTHER					
Added	43	45	43	47	51
Disposed	41	42	47	43	49
Pending	19	16	12	15	16
ALL CASES					
Added	592	661	612	591	550
Disposed	629	619	665	628	671
Pending	666	704	646	577	487

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

DISPOSITION DETAIL

MANNER AND STAGE OF DISPOSITION	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
BEFORE ARGUMENT					
Withdrawn	115	109	91	95	77
Dismissed	57	105	102	86	81
Petition Granted	11	5	8	5	3
Petition Denied	115	77	83	109	141
Other	5	11	65	5	4
TOTAL	303	307	290	300	306
AFTER ARGUMENT ON THE MOTION CALENDAR					
Withdrawn	*	5	4	*	2
Affirmed	*	86	143	107	147
Modified	*	2	*	*	0
Reversed	*	18	16	12	12
16G Affirmed	*	9	12	*	2
Other	*	10	14	16	25
TOTAL	96	130	189	135	188
AFTER ARGUMENT ON THE MERITS					
Withdrawn	3	4	4	1	2
Affirmed	137	115	102	121	129
Modified	15	13	13	15	10
Reversed	67	50	67	56	36
Other	8	*	*	*	0
TOTAL	230	182	186	193	177
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	629	619	665	628	671
AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION	13.05 mos.	13.9 mos.	14.7 mos.	13.7 mos.	13.03 mos.
MEDIAN TIME TO DISPOSITION	*	8.9 mos.	10.4 mos.	9.4 mos.	10.3 mos.

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

FELONIES	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Filed	3,014	2,997	2,898	3,195	3,128
Cases Disposed	2,912	3,107	2,788	2,671	3,181
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+102	-110	+110	+524	-53
Total Pending Cases	*	*	1,647	2,237	1,988
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	1,049	1,418	1,275
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(63.7%)	(63.4%)	(64.1%)
KENT					
Cases Filed	753	648	697	909	613
Cases Disposed	648	438	768	841	677
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+105	+210	-71	+68	-64
Total Pending Cases	*	*	273	270	201
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	110	106	105
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(40.3%)	(39.2%)	(52.2%)
WASHINGTON					
Cases Filed	345	363	355	370	346
Cases Disposed	281	508	323	273	221
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+64	-145	+32	+97	+125
Total Pending Cases	*	*	80	135	160
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	25	52	77
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(31.3%)	(38.5%)	(98.1%)
NEWPORT					
Cases Filed	288	224	315	306	273
Cases Disposed	288	192	425	289	297
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+0	+32	-110	+17	-24
Total Pending Cases	*	*	88	96	130
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	9	18	62
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(10.2%)	(18.7%)	(47.6%)
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	4,400	4,232	4,265	4,780	4,360
Cases Disposed	4,129	4,245	4,304	4,074	4,376
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+271	-13	-39	+706	-16
Total Pending Cases	*	*	2,088	2,738	2,479
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	1,193	1,594	1,519
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(57.1%)	(58.2%)	(61.2%)

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW (cont.)

MISDEMEANORS	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Filed	662	394	538	486	767
Cases Disposed	747	440	422	407	601
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-85	-46	+116	+79	+166
Total Pending Cases	*	*	413	477	478
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	214	340	209
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(51.8%)	(71.3%)	(43.7%)
KENT					
Cases Filed	161	190	180	255	176
Cases Disposed	162	119	167	177	268
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-1	+71	+13	+78	-92
Total Pending Cases	*	*	78	97	57
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	34	50	19
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(43.6%)	(51.5%)	(33.3%)
WASHINGTON					
Cases Filed	159	151	86	96	158
Cases Disposed	83	223	72	80	77
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+76	-72	+14	+16	+81
Total Pending Cases	*	*	17	21	87
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	3	8	30
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(17.6%)	(38.1%)	(34.4%)
NEWPORT					
Cases Filed	161	299	199	93	61
Cases Disposed	73	63	415	167	82
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+88	+236	-216	-74	-21
Total Pending Cases	*	*	124	43	49
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	28	4	9
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(22.6%)	(9.3%)	(18.3%)
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	1,143	1,034	1,003	930	1,162
Cases Disposed	1,065	845	1,076	831	1,028
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+78	+189	-73	+99	+134
Total Pending Cases	*	*	632	638	671
Cases Over 180 Days Old	*	*	279	402	267
% Over 180 Days Old	*	*	(44.1%)	(63%)	(39.7%)

MANNER OF DISPOSITION

FELONIES	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Plea	2,375	2,530	2,355	2,120	2,532
Dismissal	389	488	360	436	552
Trial	148	89	73	115	97
Total	2,912	3,107	2,788	2,671	3,181
KENT					
Plea	557	367	685	761	494
Dismissal	82	57	71	70	148
Trial	9	14	12	10	35
Total	648	438	768	841	677
WASHINGTON					
Plea	252	433	295	242	178
Dismissal	21	62	22	26	33
Trial	8	13	6	5	10
Total	281	508	323	273	221
NEWPORT					
Plea	238	166	367	231	264
Dismissal	35	25	45	49	28
Trial	15	1	13	9	5
Total	288	192	425	289	297
STATEWIDE					
Plea	3,422	3,496	3,702	3,354	3,468
Dismissal	527	632	498	581	761
Trial	180	117	104	139	147
Total	4,129	4,245	4,304	4,074	4,376

MANNER OF DISPOSITION (cont.)

MISDEMEANORS	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Plea	397	260	311	303	439
Dismissal	343	130	100	96	127
Trial	7	50	11	8	40
Total	747	440	422	407	601
KENT					
Plea	110	89	112	129	187
Dismissal	46	26	48	45	68
Trial	6	4	7	3	13
Total	162	119	167	177	268
WASHINGTON					
Plea	65	161	49	54	54
Dismissal	17	55	11	24	20
Trial	1	7	12	2	3
Total	83	223	72	80	77
NEWPORT					
Plea	41	50	283	152	52
Dismissal	28	11	130	13	25
Trial	4	2	2	2	5
Total	73	63	415	167	82
STATEWIDE					
Plea	613	560	755	638	732
Dismissal	434	222	289	178	240
Trial	18	63	32	15	61
Total	1,065	845	1,076	831	1,028

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CIVIL CASEFLOW

CIVIL ACTIONS	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Total Cases Filed	5,224	5,351	5,156	5,653	5,598
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,043	2,179	1,895	2,196	2,056
Cases Disposed	2,293	2,053	1,846	1,653	1,665
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-250	+126	+49	+543	+391
Pending at Year End	4,522	4,638	4,687	5,222	5,605
KENT					
Total Cases Filed	989	943	969	963	1,154
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	433	406	320	364	370
Cases Disposed	233	241	455	514	530
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+200	+165	-135	-150	-160
Pending at Year End	811	923	788	678	394
WASHINGTON					
Total Cases Filed	501	444	580	555	601
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	177	283	204	199	178
Cases Disposed	130	194	346	130	86
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+47	+89	-142	+69	+92
Pending at Year End	288	377	133	193	288
NEWPORT					
Total Cases Filed	498	501	589	561	509
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	157	159	160	159	134
Cases Disposed	75	87	208	114	67
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+82	+72	-48	+45	+67
Pending at Year End	251	290	164	219	224
STATEWIDE					
Total Cases Filed	7,212	7,239	7,294	7,732	7,867
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,810	3,027	2,579	2,918	2,738
Cases Disposed	2,731	2,575	2,855	2,411	2,348
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+79	+452	-276	+507	+390
Pending at Year End	5,872	6,228	5,772	6,112	6,511

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

MANNER OF DISPOSITION — TRIAL CALENDAR ONLY

CIVIL ACTIONS	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Verdicts	*	116	91	80	66
Judicial Decisions	*	65	68	65	43
Total Trials	264	181	159	145	109
Dismissed/Settled/Other	2,029	1,872	1,687	1,508	1,371
Total Disposed	2,293	2,053	1,846	1,653	1,480
KENT					
Verdicts	19	9	34	31	18
Judicial Decisions	18	26	85	140	147
Total Trials	37	35	119	171	165
Dismissed/Settled/Other	196	206	336	343	365
Total Disposed	233	241	455	514	530
WASHINGTON					
Verdicts	10	5	12	7	1
Judicial Decisions	22	32	7	8	7
Total Trials	32	37	19	15	8
Dismissed/Settled/Other	145	157	327	115	82
Total Disposed	177	194	346	130	90
NEWPORT					
Verdicts	4	12	9	7	6
Judicial Decisions	15	19	40	11	13
Total Trials	19	31	49	18	19
Dismissed/Settled/Other	56	56	159	96	48
Total Disposed	75	87	208	114	67
STATEWIDE					
Verdicts	*	142	146	125	91
Judicial Decisions	*	142	200	224	210
Total Trials	352	284	346	349	301
Dismissed/Settled/Other	2,426	2,291	2,509	2,062	1,746
Total Disposed	2,778	2,575	2,855	2,411	2,047

RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT

JUVENILE CASEFLOW

JUVENILE FILINGS	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Wayward/Delinquent	5,065	4,373	4,731	4,611	4,935
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	519	632	636	791	666
Termination of Parental Rights	266	329	259	262	217
Other	845	948	1,080	920	969
Total Filings	6,695	6,282	6,706	6,584	6,785
Total Dispositions	*	*	5,767	6,317	6,278
Caseload Increase/Decrease	*	*	+939	+267	+507
JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR RESULTS					
Cases Added	2,682	2,536	3,107	3,377	3,393
Cases Disposed	2,734	2,705	3,032	3,352	3,336
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-52	-69	+75	+25	+57
Total Pending	384	315	390	415	472
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases Over 90 Days Old	46	32	40	32	75
Average Time to Disposition for Wayward/Delinquent Cases	71 days	61.3 days	66.3 days	73.9 days	68.5 days

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASEFLOW

DIVORCE PETITIONS FILED					
Providence/Bristol	3,217	3,039	2,999	3,101	3,174
Kent	896	828	834	868	822
Newport	502	413	438	519	437
Washington	522	474	502	527	493
STATEWIDE TOTAL	5,137	4,754	4,773	5,015	4,926
CONSTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR RESULTS					
Cases Added	*	*	802	842	985
Cases Disposed	*	*	898	740	939
Caseload Increase/Decrease	*	*	-96	+102	+46
Total Pending	565	576	480	582	628
Cases Pending Over 180 Days	154	164	149	204	153
Cases Pending Over 360 Days	37	59	10	31	20
Average Time to Disposition	*	*	226.4 days	225 days	215 days

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

MISDEMEANORS	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Cases Filed	33,665	29,720	30,114	32,436	33,339
Cases Disposed	33,457	28,651	28,461	30,721	30,235
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+ 208	+ 1,069	+ 1,653	+ 1,715	+ 3,104
Total Pending Cases	1,671	1,511	1,934	2,390	3,001
Cases Over 60 Days Old	352	471	480	635	647

MANNER OF DISPOSITION

MISDEMEANORS					
Pleas	18,944	17,180	16,006	17,311	17,205
Filed	4,181	3,592	3,494	3,874	3,774
Dismissed	7,758	5,783	6,837	7,263	7,129
Trials	565	652	623	577	547
Others	1,075	886	987	1,108	883
Cases Transferred	934	558	514	588	697
TOTAL	33,457	28,651	28,461	30,721	30,235
Cases Appealed	278	281	344	291	278
FELONIES					
Charges Filed	8,064	7,981	8,116	8,332	8,233
Charges Disposed	8,299	7,993	8,271	8,005	6,559
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Charged	3,468	4,472	4,831	4,837	4,056
Not Charged/Dismissed	4,831	3,521	3,440	3,168	2,503
TOTAL	8,299	7,993	8,271	8,005	6,559

CIVIL CASEFLOW

REGULAR CIVIL					
Cases Filed	22,625	19,758	18,759	21,396	21,116
Cases Disposed	18,842	16,040	13,688	14,723	16,770
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	12,262	9,609	7,754	8,274	9,020
Settlements	3,519	3,556	2,823	3,513	3,803
Judgments	3,061	2,783	3,031	2,915	3,840
Transfers		92	80	21	107
TOTAL	18,842	16,040	13,688	14,723	16,770
Appeals	485	406	339	395	303
SMALL CLAIMS					
Cases Filed	8,475	10,850	12,087	11,997	12,654
Cases Disposed	5,893	7,213	7,791	8,038	10,491
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	3,984	4,143	4,531	4,962	6,383
Settlements	1,170	1,841	1,983	1,544	1,998
Judgments	739	1,229	1,277	1,532	2,310
TOTAL	5,893	7,213	7,791	8,038	10,491
Appeals	115	103	116	97	131